



What is the NDIIS?

The North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) is a confidential, population-based, computerized information system that attempts to collect vaccination data about all North Dakotans. The NDIIS is an important tool to increase and sustain high vaccination coverage by consolidating vaccination records of children from multiple providers, generating reminder and recall vaccination notices for each child and providing official vaccination forms and vaccination coverage assessments. Children are entered into the NDIIS at birth through a linkage with electronic birth records. An NDIIS vaccination record also can be initiated by a health-care provider at the time of a child's first immunization. The NDIIS has the capability of collecting vaccination data on adult patients, as well as children.

What is Meaningful Use?

In 2009 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Congress authorized more than \$25 billion in incentive payments to hospitals and health-care providers to facilitate the adoption of meaningful use of certified electronic health records (EHRs). Incentive payments of up to \$44,000 through the Medicare incentive program or \$63,750 through the Medicaid incentive program can be made to eligible professionals and hospitals.

To receive incentive payments, providers must meet and maintain a set of meaningful use measures using a certified EHR. Meaningful use employs a three-stage approach, with each stage building on the preceding stage. Stage 1 and Stage 2 requirements have both been published with Stage 2 starting January 2014.

For more information on the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, visit www.cms.gov/ehrincentiveprograms/.

Detailed information about the different stages of meaningful use can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ehrmeaningfuluse/>.

How Does NDIIS Affect Meaningful Use Requirements?

Improving population health through prevention of vaccine-preventable disease is a goal of the EHR incentive program. Attainment of this goal will be realized through establishment of connectivity between EHRs and immunization information systems or registries, such as the NDIIS. Submission of immunization data to registries is one of the ten "menu" requirements available to satisfy stage 1 meaningful use criteria. Among the significant provisions in meaningful use stage 2 are the endorsement of a single standard, HL7 2.5.1, for all immunization messages submitted from EHR systems to IIS, and the requirement for "ongoing submission" of production immunization data (as opposed to test data) to an IIS.

NDIIS Interoperability with EHRs is supported by the North Dakota Health Information Technology (HIT) Advisory Committee and is included in the North Dakota HIT Strategic and Operational Plan. For more information about North Dakota HIT, visit www.healthit.nd.gov/.

What is the Status of NDIIS Interoperability with EHRs?

The NDIIS is currently connected with one health system EHR (Epic). Participating provider practices and EHR

vendors will be prioritized for interoperability with the NDIIS based on the volume of children immunized and the readiness of the EHR. The NDDoH will contact high volume providers for participation in this initiative. Providers may also complete and electronically submit an NDIIS interoperability initial interest form at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/mu/MU.aspx.

Planning is currently underway to connect the NDIIS with the North Dakota Health Information Network. This plan is currently being developed and more information will be available in the future.

What is the NDIIS-EHR Interoperability Testing Process?

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND), who maintains the NDIIS, has developed a testing process to ensure NDIIS will be ready to support EPs and hospitals in meeting the immunization meaningful use measure. Before the formal testing process can begin, the provider must prove that they are able to successfully submit a valid message to the NDIIS Interoperability automated testing site.

Testing to certify for meaningful use stage 1 or to begin the initial interest process for establishing will be conducted using the NDIIS interoperability automated testing site to submit a version 2.5.1 HL7 VXU message.

The automated test site can be accessed from the following link:

<https://meaningfuluse.bcbsnd.com/meanuse/meanuse.aspx>

HL7 Specifications for NDIIS interoperability with EHRs are available at:

www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Interop/

If your organization is interested in connecting directly to the NDIIS, please fill out the NDIIS Interoperability Initial Interest form located at: <http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/mu/MU.aspx>

Additional Information:

Additional information is available at www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Interop/ by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

